

What is claimed is:

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1. An Adenovirus (Ad) backbone plasmid comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, starting with the left hand ITR.
 2. The plasmid of claim 1, wherein any or all open reading frames constituting E4 have been modified.
 3. The plasmid of claim 2, wherein the modification is a substitution, insertion, or deletion of one or more nucleotides.
 4. The plasmid of claim 1, wherein E3 has been modified.
 5. The plasmid of claim 4, wherein the modification is a substitution, insertion, or deletion of one or more nucleotides.
 6. The plasmid of claim 4, wherein E3 has been modified to contain a multiple cloning site.
 7. The plasmid of claim 4, wherein one or more genes required for Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) packaging and an HSV origin of replication have been placed within the E3 region.
 8. The plasmid of claim 1, further comprising HSV Amplicon sequences required for packaging and replication.
 9. The plasmid of claim 8, wherein the Amplicon sequences are positioned on either side of the Ad left and right ITRs.

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10. The plasmid of claim 1 further comprising one or more sequences that allow for integration of sequences into cells after viral infection.

11. A shuttle plasmid comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome.

12. The shuttle plasmid of claim 11, wherein PacI restriction endonuclease sites flank either end of the Ad sequences.

13. The shuttle plasmid of claim 11, further comprising a multiple cloning site positioned between 1 and 9.2 map units.

14. The shuttle plasmid of claim 11, wherein the shuttle plasmid further comprises a sequence encoding a gene of interest.

15. The shuttle plasmid of claim 11, further comprising a novel promoter, inducible promoter or other sequence used to drive expression from a transgene.

16. A cloning system for generating recombinant adenovirus comprising:
(a) an Ad backbone plasmid comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, starting with the lefthand ITR, and
(b) a shuttle plasmid comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome.

17. A host cell comprising:
(a) an Ad backbone plasmid comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, starting with the lefthand ITR, and
(b) a shuttle plasmid comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome.

18. The host cell of claim 17, wherein the cell expresses E1 sequences necessary for supporting adenovirus replication.

19. A host cell of claim 18, wherein the cell is an animal cell.

20. A host cell of claim 17, wherein the cell expresses E1 sequences, pIX and E4 sequences required for amplification of viruses generated made with the Ad backbone.

21. A host cell of 20, wherein the cell is an animal cell.

22. A method for rapidly producing recombinant adenovirus comprising contacting a host cell with

- (a) an Ad backbone plasmid comprising an Ad genome lacking map units 0 to 9.2, starting with the lefthand ITR, and
- (b) a shuttle plasmid comprising Ad sequences from 0 to 1 and 9.2 to 16.1 map units of an Ad genome.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising serially amplifying virus produced by the host cell.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising detecting the presence of wild type virus.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the shuttle plasmid further comprises a sequence encoding a gene of interest.